THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities provides for giving special consideration to minorities in recruitment of police personnel, Central Police forces, Railways, nationalized banks and public sector enterprises. In pursuance of this, the Department of Personnel & Training has issued an Office Memorandum on 8th January, 2007. States have been advised suitably.

(d) As per available information from 1st April, 2007 to 17th September, 2007, Central Para Military Forces recruited 1976 personnel from the minorities.

Reservation for Dalit-Christians

672. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the socio-economic conditions of the Dalit-Christians is as bad as the other SC/ST categories;

(b) whether there is a demand for their inclusion in the reserved category;

(c) if so, whether Government would consider their inclusion too in the reserved category;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (e) One of the terms of reference of the National Commission for Religious & Linguistic Minorities (NCRLM) was to suggest the criteria for identification of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities and to recommend measures for their welfare, including reservation, in education and Government employment.

The NCRLM was also asked to give it's recommendations on the issues raised in Writ Petition Nos. 180/04 and 94/05 filed in the Supreme Court and in certain High Courts relating to para 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, in the context of ceiling of 50% reservation, as also the modalities of inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes.

The NCRLM submitted its report in May, 2007. The recommendations of NCRLM are under consideration of Government.

Committee on functioning of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation

673. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert Committee has been set up recently by Government to review the functioning of the National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC);

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations taken up for implementation and the status of their implementation, issue-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay in submitting the report?